GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6353
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
VILLAGE TELEPHONES
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the year 2001-2002 there was shortfall in targets in respect of switching capacity, new lines, village public telephones and even for Optical Fibre Cables;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the fault rate of the BSNLand the MTNL phones remained unacceptably high during 2001-2002 despite some improvement in the previous two fiscal years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Sir, details of targets and achievements of switching capacity, new lines, Village public telephones and optical fibre cables are given in Annexure.

(c) No, Sir. The fault rates have come down during 2001-2002 as compared to previous two years.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

ANNEXURE

Targets and achievements during 2001-2002

BSNL

Sl. No.	Parameters	Target	Achievement
1.	Switching Capacity (Lakh Lines)	78.81	68.7
2.	Direct Exchange Lines (Lakh Lines)	68.3	53.21
3.	Village Public Telephones (Nos.)	83903	70755
4.	Optical Fiber Cable (Route kms)	126000	99620

MTNL

Sl. No.	Parameters	Target	Achievement
1.	Switching Capacity (Lakh Lines)	3.3	5.3
2.	New Lines (fixed lines & mobile service) (lakh lines)	3.5	4.25
3.	Village Telephones (VPT)	Public in two metro cities only and does not provide VPTs	Not applicable as MTNL serves
4.	Optical Fiber Cable (Route kms)	20,000 fiber KMs	27,777 fiber KMs

Reasons for shortfall

BSNL

1. The shortfall in the Switching capacity was mainly due to delay in placement of purchase Order for 15 lakh lines of Cellular mobile Telephone Equipments. The achievement against gross DELS was an all time high of approximately 73 lakhs. However, due to approximately 20 lakh disconnections, the net achievement was only 53.21 lakh lines.

2. The shortfall in the case of VPTs was mainly due to delay in supply of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment and non-receipt of Standing Advisory Committee for frequency allocation (SACFA) clearance for North East, Assam and J&K due to security reasons. Despite these the achievement was an all time high compared to previous best performance of about 43,000 in one year.

3. The shortfall in respect of OFC was mainly due to poor availability of PLB (Pre-Lubricated) pipes, as it was a new product being introduced for the first time. The achievement was again an all time high.

MTNL

There was shortfall in net DELs during 2001-2002 mainly due to the following reasons:

1. Large-scale surrender of telephones due to economic reasons.

2. Surrender of additional telephones.

3. Disconnection of telephones due to non-payment.

4. Migration from fixed to mobile due to competitive rates.